

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING
BENGSTON FOR HIS OUT-
STANDING CONTRIBUTION AS
MENDOCINO COUNTY AGRICUL-
TURAL COMMISSIONER AND
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEAS-
URES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Bengston upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of outstanding service to the people of Mendocino County. During his tenure as Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures, Mr. Bengston's distinguished career includes many milestones.

He was instrumental in the eradication of the Ribes mite, which was not previously known to occur in North America. Mr. Bengston wrote a new quarantine for Grape Leaf Skeletonizer to protect the wine grape industry and succeeded in keeping the pest out of the county. He instituted an annual county-wide pesticide container recycling event. And he coordinated a hazardous materials collections process.

Dave Bengston, born in Modesto, in the heart of California's fertile Central Valley, was drawn at an early age toward agricultural pursuits. His first jobs as a teenager were picking peaches and working in canneries. While attending Modesto Junior College he developed a "love for botany." From there he attended Stanislaus State before transferring to the University of California at Berkeley.

In addition to his more than fulltime work schedule, Mr. Bengston developed a passion for mycology. In 1972 he already had a license in Apiary Inspection when he got a job with Mendocino County as a weights and measures inspector. A benefit to his move to Mendocino was the myriad variety of wild mushrooms, for which he has become an expert in identification.

He met his wife Christy, who was the 4-H secretary for the University of California Extension Service, in 1974. They were married 2 years later and have two grown sons, Brett and Logan.

Since 1989, when he became Mendocino County's Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures, Mr. Bengston has been instrumental in the success of keeping Mendocino free of such invasive pests as the Mediterranean fruit fly, vine mealybugs, and the Gypsy moth. He also made contributions to the glassy-winged sharpshooter, national organic, and West Nile virus programs and was instrumental in enforcing the ordinance banning genetically modified organisms in Mendocino County.

As is true of extraordinary public servants like Mr. Bengston, he also gave back to his community. He was a member of the Ukiah Kiwanis Club, a board member of the

Mendocino County Promotional Alliance and director and education chair of the Peregrine Audubon Society, to name a few. Bengston also found time to be a charter member of the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. He coached youth soccer and basketball and played men's league soccer and was a soccer referee until 1993. He also has served as an advisor to the Ukiah Association of the Handicapped and the Regional Occupational Horticultural Program.

Madam Speaker, through his visionary leadership, technical expertise and quiet persuasion, Dave Bengston has made a long-lasting positive impact on the resources of the county of Mendocino. For these reasons and for the widespread respect of his colleagues and community, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Dave Bengston.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR. KENNETH STOCKING

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to honor Dr. Kenneth Stocking, who passed away on November 17, 2008, at the notable age of 97. Dr. Stocking dedicated his life and his work to education and the environment.

Dr. Stocking was a pioneering environmentalist and professor emeritus at Sonoma State University, SSU, who spent nearly half a century committed to environmental and political activism. A steward of plants, he was lauded for his advocacy work to preserve and protect native California species.

After graduating from the College of the Pacific in Stockton, Dr. Stocking began his teaching career and subsequently taught at several elementary and high schools. He later obtained a master's degree from the College of the Pacific and a doctorate degree at the University of Southern California in 1950.

In 1964, Dr. Stocking began teaching at what was then the Sonoma State College. Under his nurturing and forward-thinking leadership as professor and chair of the biology department, the department blossomed into the School of Environmental Studies and Planning. In addition to offering degree and certificate programs, Dr. Stocking's creation also serves as the home for the innovative Environmental Technology Center, ETC, and the Institute for Community Planning Assistance. Today, ETC is a model for green design in our nation.

Dr. Stocking's legacy continues to thrive today at SSU. He founded a botanical garden in 1973 at SSU to showcase the diverse California plant communities and provide a tranquil place for education and relaxation. In recognition of his plentiful contributions to the environmental sciences, faculty and students, this garden is named the Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden.

During his tenure at SSU, Dr. Stocking was appointed by then-Governor of California Ronald Reagan as the central coast representative for the California Coastal Commission. He was also president of Sonoma County Tomorrow, chairman of the Sonoma County Conservation Council, board member of the Sonoma Land Trust and an active member of the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society and many other organizations.

Dr. Stocking and his wife of 69 years, Mary, who preceded him in death, resided in Sonoma County for about 40 years. After his retirement from SSU in 1979, Dr. Stocking and Mary traveled to England, Europe, Africa and Asia. He is survived by a son and daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Kenneth Stocking's unbridled passion for protecting our environment and commitment to education will continue to inform and inspire residents of Sonoma County and beyond.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. Given the importance of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to my constituents, I am pleased that the House is working to extend SCHIP through Fiscal Year 2013.

Every bill that works its way through Congress has provisions that are less than ideal and this bill is no exception. Clearly, if given the opportunity, I would write much of this bill in a different way. That opportunity, of course, will not materialize.

However, accessibility to quality health care is one of the great challenges we face as a Nation. It is a particularly acute problem in Northern and Central New York, which I have the privilege of representing. According to one source, there are currently over 400,000 children without health insurance in New York State.

The importance of the SCHIP program to my district is hard to overstate. In fact, nearly 20,000 children in the 11 counties I represent are currently enrolled in the Child Health Plus as the SCHIP program is known in New York State.

The bill before the House today would strengthen and expand the SCHIP program by providing an additional \$35 billion over the next four and a half years. As a result of this increase in funding, an additional 4 million children—267,000 in New York State—are projected to be enrolled in the program, thereby ensuring that a total of 11 million children

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